

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on March 3, 2010 at 61 Woodland Street, Room B-39, Hartford, Connecticut

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Amanda Campbell, RN
Heidi Darling, LPN
Jennifer Long, APRN
Katherine Pellerin, RN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN
Donna Roberts, LPN
Mertie Terry, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tarah Cherry, Public Member
Veronica Kivela, Public Member
Kathy K. Shea, Public Member

ALSO PRESENT: Joanne V. Yandow, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Jennifer Filippone, Section Chief, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Pamela Pelletier, Nurse Consultant, DPH
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Janice E. Wojick, Administrative Assistant, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut, Southern CT State University, and new DPH Nurses working in the Investigations Unit.

Chair Bouffard and Katherine Pellerin provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs after the morning break.

CHAIR UPDATES

Chair Bouffard, Donna Roberts, and Veronica Kivella had a follow-up meeting with Governor Rell's staff on February 26, 2010 and reiterated the Board's concerns about the sudden closing of the CT Technical High School LPN Programs. The Governor had appointed a committee to review the closing of the CT Technical High School LPN Programs. The Board of Examiners for Nursing was never consulted regarding the closing of the programs. Patricia Fennessy provided data on articulation. Discussed were the cost of the program including the recommended strategies of tuition increases, transitioning with the community colleges, subsidizing with outside sources, etc.

OPEN FORUM

There were no questions/comments from the audience.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

Revised agendas were provided to the Board Members.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Office of Government Relations had provided the Board with a summary of bills from the 2010 Legislative Session which may have an impact on nursing. Jennifer Filippone reviewed this summary with the Board.

SCHOOL ISSUES – NORTHWESTERN CT COMMUNITY COLLEGE (NCCC) – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Chair Bouffard recused herself and left the room. Katherine Pellerin was Chair Pro Tem for the review of the Feasibility Study. Present from NCCC were Barbara Douglass, President, Barbara Berger, Professor Emeritus, Steve Frazier, Dean of Administration and Student Affairs, Linda Perfetto, Director of System Nursing Curricular Operations, CCCNP. Amanda Campbell arrived at this time. NCCC has demonstrated a need for an RN Program in this geographical area and stated that this project has been three years in the making. Maria Pietrantuono moved to accept the Feasibility Study as presented. The motion was seconded by Mary Brown and passed with all in favor. NCCC will present their curriculum to the Board at the May 5, 2010 meeting. Upon completion of the discussion and voting, Patricia Bouffard returned to chair the meeting.

NURSING ISSUES WORKGROUP MEETINGS WITH DPH

Jennifer Filippone and Chair Bouffard announced that the Nursing Issues Workgroup Meetings will be re-established to discuss issues of mutual interest. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th. In the past this was a great opportunity for DPH and the Board to dialogue with the nursing community with representation from the CT Nurses' Association, the CT League for Nursing, Deans and Directors, Nurses Executives, CT LPN Association, and the Vocational-Technical School System. The last workgroup meeting was held on May 23, 2006.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE: CORRESPONDENCE/STATISTICS ON INQUIRIES

Diane Cybulski provided the Board and students with a review of the calls received in the Board office.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING UPDATE

Chair Bouffard, Donna Roberts, and Jennifer Long will be attending the NCSBN Mid Year Meeting in Chicago March 8 – 10, 2010.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2010

The Board reviewed the minutes as presented. Mary Brown moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded that the minutes be approved as written. The motion passed with all in favor with the following abstentions; Mertie Terry, Donna Roberts, and Jennifer Long.

REINSTATEMENT HEARING REQUEST – LORRAINE MUNGER, LPN

Ms. Munger was not in attendance. Mary Brown moved, seconded by Katherine Pellerin, to table this request to the April 7, 2010 agenda at 9:30 AM. The motion passed unanimously.

REINSTATEMENT REQUEST – STEPHANIE STANIS, LPN

Ms. Stanis presented her reinstatement request to the Board. The Board discussed the length of time it has been that Ms. Stanis has been out of the practice of nursing. The Board stated that there are constant changes in nursing and that their main concern is public safety. Amanda Campbell made a motion to deny Ms. Stanis' reinstatement request. The motion was seconded by Katherine Pellerin and passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. The Board's ruling stands that if someone has not held a nursing license for a five-year period or longer, he/she has to successfully complete a Board approved refresher program and successfully complete the NCLEX exam.

MEMORANDA OF DECISION

The Board reviewed the following Memoranda of Decision.

LEONA BILODEAU, LPN

Katherine Pellerin moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Bilodeau's practical nurse license. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

RICHARD HOULE, RN

Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Donna Roberts to affirm the Board's prior decision to reinstate Mr. Houle's registered nurse license to probation for four years after he successfully completes an RN refresher program. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

STACEY JANKOWSKI, LPN

Jennifer Long moved and Maria Pietrantuono seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Jankowski's practical nurse license. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

MELANIE MEADE, LPN

Katherine Pellerin moved and Mary Brown seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Meade's practical nurse license. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

PAMELA PECKRUL, RN

Mary Brown moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to revoke Ms. Peckrul's registered nurse license. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

JOANNE PRELI, RN

Katherine Pellerin moved and Jennifer Long seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to charge Ms. Preli with a \$150.00 civil penalty. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

DOLORES SEPELAK, RN

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Amanda Campbell seconded to affirm the Board's prior decision to Dismiss the Statement of Charges regarding Ms. Sepelak's registered nurse license. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Mertie Terry. Chair Bouffard signed the Memorandum of Decision.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – LISA A. BRETON, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Lisa A. Breton. Ms. Breton was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed with all in favor. The hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2010. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – SARA KAISER, LPN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Sara Kaiser. Ms. Kaiser was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Mary Brown seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed with all in favor. The hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2010. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – SANDRA SCHUTTE, RN

Legal Office Attorney Joelle Newton presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Sandra Schutte. Ms. Schutte was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Amanda Campbell moved and Donna Roberts seconded to grant the Motion for Summary Suspension. The motion passed with all in favor. The hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2010. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order and the Notice of Hearing.

HEARING – RUTH DUSHAY, RN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Dushay was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina checked her office voice mail to see if Ms. Dushay had left a message. Ms. Dushay had called stating that she was on her way although she was stuck in non-moving traffic and would arrive as soon as possible.

HEARING - JENNIFER GRECO, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Greco was present pro se. Testimony was provided by Ms. Greco.

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded that Ms. Greco be found on all charges including 20-99(b)(5) and 20-99(b)(2) illegal conduct.

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Jennifer Long seconded that Ms. Greco's license be placed on probation for four years with the usual probationary terms including narcotics key restriction. The summary suspension is to remain in place for six months through September 3, 2010. The motion passed with all in favor.

HEARING – RUTH DUSHAY, RN

Legal Office Attorney Linda Fazzina was present representing the Department of Public Health (DPH). The hearing reconvened at 1:00 PM. Ms. Dushay was present pro se. Exhibits were entered into the record by Ms. Dushay and the DPH. There was a lengthy discussion regarding treatment records. The hearing was continued to May 5, 2010 to allow DPH the time to obtain Ms. Dushay's complete file of treatment records.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present that this meeting be adjourned at 2:20 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Bouffard, RN, Chair
Mary M. Brown, RN
Amanda Campbell, RN
Tarah Cherry, Public Member
Heidi Darling, LPN
Veronica Kivela, Public Member
Jennifer Long, APRN
Katherine Pellerin, RN
Maria Pietrantuono, RN
Donna Roberts, LPN
Kathy K. Shea, Public Member
Mertie Terry, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy Owens, Counsel to the Board, DPH
Diane Cybulski, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Ellen M. Shanley, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
David Tilles, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, Legal Office, DPH
Jeffrey A. Kardys, Administrative Hearings Specialist, DPH
Gail Gregoriades, Court Reporter

Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM.

STUDENTS

Chair Bouffard welcomed students from the University of Hartford, American International College, the University of Connecticut, Elms College, and Central CT State University.

Chair Bouffard and Katherine Pellerin provided the students with an overview of the Board's responsibilities, jurisdiction, and nursing education programs.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO TARAH CHERRY – NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Board welcomed Tarah Cherry to the Board. Ms. Cherry was appointed by Governor Rell to serve as a Public Member on February 25, 2010.

SCHOOL ISSUES – SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY

The Sacred Heart University BSN Program was placed on probationary status secondary to a 75% NCLEX pass rate for the graduating class of May, 2008. The current pass rate for the fourth quarter of 2009 was 93%. Katherine Pellerin moved and Mary Brown seconded to remove the program status from probationary status and grant the program full approval. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention, Tarah Cherry.

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION – KATHRYN ARMITAGE, RN

Legal Office Attorney Ellen M. Shanley presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Kathryn Armitage. Ms. Armitage was not present and did not have representation at this meeting. Mary Brown moved and Jennifer Long seconded that the Motion for Summary Suspension be granted. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry. Chair Bouffard signed the Motion for Summary Suspension and the Notice of Hearing scheduling the hearing for April 7, 2010.

CONSENT ORDER – DANIEL S. ANTELL, RN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Daniel S. Antell. Attorney Janis Malec was present on behalf of Mr. Antell who was not in attendance at today's meeting. Maria Pietrantuono moved and Mary Brown seconded to deny the Consent Order as presented. The Board recommended that a civil penalty of \$2,500.00 be added to the Consent Order. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry.

CONSENT ORDER – NANCY MARINARA, RN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan presented the Board with a Consent Order for Nancy Marinara. Attorney Mary Ellen DiRosa was present on behalf of Ms. Marinara who was not in attendance at today's meeting. Jennifer Long moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded to accept the Consent Order as presented. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry. Chair Bouffard signed the Consent Order.

HEARING – SANDRA SCHUTTE, RN

Legal Office Attorney Joelle Newton was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Schutte was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided.

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded that Ms. Schutte be found on all charges. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry.

Maria Pietrantuono moved and Katherine Pellerin seconded that Ms. Schutte's license be revoked. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry.

HEARING – SARA KAISER, LPN

Legal Office Attorney David Tilles was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Kaiser was not present and did not have representation at this hearing. There was no testimony provided.

Jennifer Long moved to find Ms. Kaiser on all charges. The motion was seconded by Donna Roberts and passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry.

Jennifer Long moved and Heidi Darling seconded that Ms. Kaiser's license be revoked. The motion passed with all in favor with one abstention, Tarah Cherry.

HEARING – LISA A. BRETON, LPN

Legal Office Attorney Diane Wilan was present representing the Department of Public Health. Ms. Breton was present although she did not have representation at this hearing. Testimony was provided by Ms. Breton.

Maria Pietrantuono moved, seconded by Mary Brown, to continue this hearing until September 15, 2010 to allow Ms. Breton time to contact the HAVEN Program. The motion passed with Katherine Pellerin, Amanda Campbell, Jennifer Long, and Kathy Shea opposed and Tarah Cherry abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present that this meeting be adjourned at 10:25 AM.